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VOL. VIII.

MAY, 1887.

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MR. HAGGARD'S ROMANCES.

Some of the current criticism of Mr. Haggard's books recalls the whimsical criticism Cervantes made of himself: "This Cervantes has long been my friend. His book does, indeed, display a little power of invention; it aims at something but it reaches nothing." One reviewer says that Mr. Haggard "has but a rudimentary ability to delineate character, which is the chief function of the novelist," yet concedes that "Jess" "is certainly interesting." If, in the surfeit of books palling all tastes now, any story is interesting, must it need be that before we grant a grace to the author he must show that he can delineate character as some other writers do who are tiresome enough? Another critic notes that in "King Solomon's Mines" the crescent moon in full bow rises over Kukuanaland from the east a little after sunset; the next evening it has suddenly become full; and the following day after it has become full it totally eclipses the sun. The critic justly doubts whether even in Kukuanaland moon and sun should play such hocus-pocus arts with astronomy. And even the least exacting reader will be more than once annoyed by the crudeness of many of Mr. Haggard's sentences. But it takes more and greater faults than these to damn a writer if his work is vital and strong. The world of readers are used to good writing. Never in the world were there so many good

writers and so much good writing as now. That Mr. Haggard could be so much read and seem to so many readers to be worth their attention and commendation makes a strong presumption that he has distinctive and marked merits despite any and all shortcomings in his performance. But the history of literature shows that novelty alone may secure many readers and a wide and transient reputation. The history of criticism teaches its professors to make a modest and doubtful estimate of their forecasts. They are not prophets or children of prophets and their judgments are not likely to be prescient. For our own part we shall make a very moderate and misgiving estimate of Mr. Haggard as he seems to us.

He has shown the old distinction between the novel and the romance. In the former the imagination pictures what is: in the latter it invents what is not. The novel dealing with the actual but slightly transposed has come in these latter days to an almost unmixed realism. In the degree it has become realistic we were all outgrowing romance. While we are all in this mood Mr. Haggard surprises us with romances as fantastic as those that Cervantes caricatured to immortal death. He chose his line with deliberation. Here is a scene from one of his first stories: "'Well, Ernest,' she said, 'what are you thinking about? You are as dull as—as the dullest thing in the world, whatever that may be. What is the dullest thing in the world?' 'I don't know,' he answered, awakening; 'yes I think I do: an American novel.' 'Yes, that is a good definition. You are as dull as an American novel.' And in the outset of 'King Solomon's Mines' Allan Quatermain promises: 'This history won't be dull, whatever else it may be.' Thus Mr. Haggard has entered the lists against the dulness of the American fashion in novels, and resolute to keep you awake as one of his prime purposes. He writes both novels and romances. The second story he published, "The Witch's Head," is a novel with the witch's head introduced unexpectedly to entertain the company with a by-play of parlor magic. It is a *deus ex machina* fabricated outright to scare the reader into wakefulness and differentiate Mr. Haggard's story from those American novels whose dulness is to his thought a pleonastic euphemism for a good honest yawn in the presence of one's lady-love. Mr. Haggard is secure in his invention: there is no witch's head nor anything like it in the American novels that we read. Lest we be too much humiliated by such contrasted pov-

erty of invention, we may proudly claim as an American that we think—we will not be over-positive, but we think—that our passing eye has caught upon news-counters the title-pages of nickel-dreadfuls, unquestionably by American writers, whose luxuriant fancy will match even the italicized nod, nod, nodding of the head that frightened Hard Riding Atterleigh out of the poor remnant of his wits. Happily Mr. Haggard's American novel-reading is restricted to the living present. For there is in our memory, though not in his, the picture of a head—a real living one, "Harpe's Head" as we remember it—which an American novelist of the last generation thrust one dismal dark night into one small window of a cabin in the dense woods. A head, grizzled, malignant, silent, bloody, sinister, which for hair-lifting power over the imagination of boys—for dramatic ability to make one's backbone consciously and uncomfortably alive at any hour of a country night—did in the comparison make the head of Mr. Haggard's witch a poor thing of shreds and patches, of pasteboard and stuffed sawdust. Skilfully contrived, too, as is the mighty door of stone which settles as doom full closing the diamond chamber of King Solomon's Mines like a grave to Mr. Haggard's adventurers, it quickened our memory to the recalling of a very yellow-covered novel we read "years and years ago," undoubtedly written by an American novelist, wherein a cunning and fanatical Chinese bonze or priest shut an American explorer into a living tomb of rock in the great wall of China by just such an infernal contrivance of a stone door. We would not enter into this ungracious form of international rivalry, matching forgotten American genius with Mr. Haggard, if he had honestly looked Dorothy full in the face, and yawned, but said nothing about the dulness of American novels. We would have left him to stumble by chance into Mr. William F. Cody's—Buffalo Bill's—"Wild West," soon to show in London, and make the discovery for himself how fully America has already grown an art and genius kindred to his own.

Now we are being spiteful, and we did not mean to be that. Let us seriously consider our author's work. The first thing to be said is that he is most readable as a novelist but most interesting in romance. It is in the latter that he has secured such large attention and by it he will have whatever distinctive place is to be his among writers. The present generation of readers do not take readily to romance. We have all been trained away from it. We do not read it easily and sympathetically. And yet the romantic quality in Mr. Haggard's stories, highly seasoned as it is, is what has given him his sudden distinction. It is the undoing of much recent criticism. It

is such a reversal of the drift in literature that he has not a reader but has strong misgivings but one's first duty is to find fault with Mr. Haggard and say that he will not do at all. This author has sprung full-armed into fame, with a great multitude of readers on both sides of the Atlantic, since Mr. Howells so lately set up his Editorial Study in "Harper's Magazine," to dissuade this generation from having one minute's time or patience for such stories as Mr. Haggard writes. Mr. Howells has let his view be known with sufficient clearness and insistence. He reads backwards fifty years, to recall that Carlyle said that the only romance is reality and prophesied that the multitude of novel-writers must "sweep their novel-fabric into the dust-cart, and betake themselves with such faculty as they have to understand and record what is true." Mr. Howells hopes for Charles Egbert Craddock that she will "wholly escape from romantic ideals." The fruition of his desire for her is this dreary outlook: "Some day, and not long hence, we believe that this gifted author will address herself yet more modernly to her work, and give us her mountain folk as she saw them before her fancy began to work upon them." That is babbling folly. It is sheer and unmixed nonsense. Nothing could be duller and stupider in this world than those mountain folk as she saw them before her fancy began to work upon them. The occasional photograph or old-fashioned daguerreotype in their cabins was fine art, the local department of their country paper was sparkling genius when compared and contrasted with the dullness and stupidity and unlovely coarseness of the actual talk and lives of these people whom her fancy has made pleasantly comrade to us because it has fashioned them as they are not. Mr. Howells's apostleship of inanity and common-place as the true sphere of a novel comes to a bitter end that we have some malicious pleasure in: it is made inaudible in the noise of the whole novel-reading world of England and America clamoring about the book counters for "She" and "King Solomon's Mines"! It is not a deliberated protest against Mr. Howells's critical canons: it is the unthinking indifference to his opinions of that vast multitude of men and women who delight in the romantic and seek Mr. Haggard's books because he gives them what they want. Mr. Haggard's readers, too, are Matthew Arnold's "remnant." They are not the crowd of Philistines who every Saturday night seek their "Ledger" or "Mercury" or penny-dreadful with such eagerness; they are the literary elect who have a mild pleasure in Mr. James and a juster and keener rapture in a new story by Mr. Howells. George Eliot, by a rare genius in self-introspection, vital

with dramatic power and a lofty informing philosophic spirit; Thackeray and Dickens, with rare talent for caricature, kept a generation of readers subject to them without romance. This limitation and absence of a factor else thought indispensable in story-telling has later been set up as a Chinese wall bounding its empire. Surely criticism could not make a more perverse or vexatious misjudgment than that a privation of faculty in this writer or that is to be made the measure of merit in all other performance. It must readily be granted that a great and enduring literature must have larger qualities than caricatures; but surely the alternative is not a flat, stale, and unprofitable realism. It did not need the reaction in opinion marked by the sudden and phenomenal eagerness with which Mr. Haggard is now sought after, to make it certain that no school of criticism could long hold sway whose dogmas must make its orthodox adherents lament that writers could mislead genius into so bad an unrealism as "Hamlet" and "The Midsummer Night's Dream," "Don Quixote" and "The Idyls of the King." It marks possibly the strength of the public weariness of realism, rather than the inherent merits of Mr. Haggard's books, that they have grown into so great favor. We are only prepared to give casual impressions, not to make a criticism that we would care to have guide the judgment of others, or to indicate the verdict of the future. But our reading of his stories has not shown us that he has any marked quality of mind save imagination, or any noteworthiness as a writer save invention. He has no wit. He has not written one sentence sprightly enough to catch the reader's attention. It is inconceivable that stories could be written so devoid of humor. The only gleam of a suggestion that he possesses the quality even remotely is his poor grotesquerie of Captain Good's half-shaven whiskers and pantless legs. That poor device marches through his story unattended by any other show of mirth, reminding one of Gilbert's ancient mariner in the "Yarn of the Nancy Bell": "I never larf and I never smile, And I never lark nor play, But I sit and croak, and a single joke I have—which is to say"—and then Mr. Haggard tells you again of Good's half-whisker and beautiful white legs. All the talking done by the persons in his several stories is unrelieved commonplace. He does not conceive or portray a character so as to make it take on any distinctness of personality. Each and everyone is dim and impersonal. Even "Jess," upon whom he has spent all his gifts in character-making, is a lay-figure in a shop window invested with certain incident and qualities. You would never recognize her unless you saw her galloping across South Africa with an

ostrich after her. Any girl pursued by an angry ostrich would be Jess, so far as you can identify her by anything you know when you have read the story. His fine writing is tawdry when not commonplace. He has overdone his romance time and again. Gagool was so evidently made to scare you, that she fails to do it because she is an absurd stage devil made for the occasion. The battle between the loyal and insurgent parts of King Twala's army misses the satire of Gulliver or Don Quixote, if that is what was intended, and is farcical. Many of the devices made to get your wonder are too stagey. "She," on her ideal side as metaphysics or philosophy or science or whatever Mr. Haggard meant her for, fails as an intellectual conception because he was not clear in his own mind what he intended her meaning to be. The place of the Fire of Life enfeebled his imagination when he had need for it to be at its best, and what might have been a great mental conception fell away into a Black Crook spectacle less impressive than a visit to a manufactory of electric light. Every chapter of his writings has something crude and defective. Yet over and above these, he is a great story-writer. He has freshened and quickened literature by showing in a distinctive and original way that the stories are not all told. He has shown that the alternative of the vapid commonplace of realism is not what Mr. Ruskin calls foul fiction—a morbid introspection of evil passions on their way from the slums to the morgue—but that romanticism, using a clean imagination, appealing to the faculty of wonder, is for most men and women the supreme and perpetually attractive form and matter of story-telling. It may be that Mr. Haggard marks a tendency and will himself be short-lived. It may equally be that there is enough originality in his romances that the future may make him a favored place alongside of Defoe and "Robinson Crusoe." If we were to hazard a guess, we would think the latter more likely to be the case than the former. For, with all his patent defects, he seems to us to have the divine incommunicable gift of creation: that genius which survives transient faults and endures in its own right.

SAMUEL M. CLARK.

FRANKLIN IN FRANCE.*

Of late the question has been asked, Who was the first great American? If we accept as necessary conditions of this title that the recipient must be preëminently the representative of the leading tendencies of the nation,

* FRANKLIN IN FRANCE. From Original Documents, most of which are now published for the first time. By Edward E. Hale, and Edward E. Hale, Jr. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

original as it is original, and that he must have won and held the admiration of the world, whom can we find to fulfil the requirements before Benjamin Franklin, and who has better satisfied them? His greatness lay in his ability to apply to the world a shrewd understanding that disclosed in the ordinary things about him potent forces for helpfulness. His life is the story of American common-sense in its highest form, applied to business, to politics, to science, to diplomacy, to religion, to philanthropy. Surely this self-made man, the apostle of the practical and the useful, is by the verdict of his own country and of Europe entitled to the distinction of being the first great American. Probably the three men who would find the choicest niches in an American Pantheon would be Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln. They achieved their success not so much by brilliancy of the higher intellectual powers as by their personal character. This is generally recognized in the case of Washington and of Lincoln, and it will be apparent in that of Franklin if we consider the leading incidents in his political services. There is truth in the remark of Condorcet that he was really an envoy not to the ministers of France, but to her people. He was welcomed by them not alone as the wise and simple searcher of nature's secrets; it was the Poor Richard wearing his fur cap among the powdered wigs, the shrewd humorist, the liberal in religion, the plain republican, that became the idol of the gay society of the Ancient Régime. Of such a man in such an age one can scarcely gain too full a knowledge.

It was not until after Sparks's edition of Franklin's works had gone to press, that the long missing collection of the first editor, Wm. Temple Franklin, was brought to light upon the top shelf of a London tailor-shop. This collection, bought by Congress from Mr. Henry Stevens in Garfield's administration, contains two thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight different papers, of which the greater part have never been printed until now. The part of the collection least drawn upon by the first editor is that which followed the year 1780. This new material has given occasion for the complete edition of Franklin's works now publishing under the editorship of Mr. John Bigelow, and it is chiefly from the same source that Dr. Hale and his son, Edward E. Hale, Jr., have drawn for their attractive octavo volume of five hundred pages devoted to the story of Franklin in France. Dr. Hale thus states his plan:

"I determined to examine anew the whole mission of Franklin to France . . . with the intention of printing all the more important letters of Franklin not published heretofore, and also the most important unpublished letters of his corre-

spondents which would throw light on the history or on his life in France."

In addition to the Stevens collection the authors have used the manuscript collections of Bancroft, the Adamses, Sparks, the American Philosophical Society, and the archives of Massachusetts.

Previous investigations of this period had prepared students to look for interesting disclosures from this mine of unworked material. An old garret gave up to M. de Loménie the papers on which he founded his useful life of Beaumarchais which compelled us to form a more lenient judgment of Silas Deane, and enabled historians to add a dramatic chapter to the account of French secret aid to the American cause. Sparks had asserted that Jay was mistaken in suspecting double dealing on the part of the French court; but Bancroft's investigation, of the secret correspondence of Vergennes have reversed this verdict, by showing that our ally desired to limit the boundaries of the United States to the Ohio and the Alleghanies, to deny her the fisheries and to keep her in a state of dependency upon France. Franklin, maintaining, in opposition to Jay, that Vergennes had never deceived him, was loth to treat separately with England. Interesting information on this topic was to be hoped for in the volume before us. There was, too, the question of Franklin's real opinion of the society about him. At the time of the appearance of Wm. Temple Franklin's edition, John Foster had urged the possibility that the editor had suppressed papers showing that, despite the aid of the French court to his country, and the adulation of French society, the clear-eyed Benjamin Franklin was not blind to the hollowness of the Ancient Régime, but in the economic and political conditions about him must have foreseen the coming storm. Upon this important question regarding Franklin's character, however, the present work has nothing new to say. We are left to believe that he did not condemn the society in which he once expected to end his days, and that even a higher endowment than common-sense is needed for the prophetic soul.

Turning the pages of the book for an answer to the other question, we are met with a serious disappointment. The period of Franklin's stay in France embraced the eight years and seven months intervening between 1776 and 1785. It is a matter of just complaint on the part of the reader that, whereas announcements and preface give every reason to expect a complete treatment of the period in one volume, the book closes with the siege of Yorktown, leaving untouched those years upon which we are informed the new material is richest, and which are of greatest interest in themselves. From other sources we learn

that a second volume will probably be issued at a date not yet determined. In this uncertainty in which the incomplete work leaves us we take refuge in the fact that Dr. Hale assures his readers that the new documents do not "suggest any revision of judgment on important matters of history where a verdict has been rendered before now. But," he adds, "we believe the reader will feel that the questions relating to French neutrality, to the treatment of prisoners, to privateering, and especially those relating to treaties with France and with England, can be considered with more certainty, now that we have all the important facts involved, as we did not have them until now." Aside from the matter of the treaty with England, this claim the book most fully justifies. Treating the expeditions of Wickes and Conyngham, and the Dunkirk privateers, the authors print material that not only illustrates one of the less known features of the period, but gives a fuller understanding of the perplexities of the commissioners in so acting as to respect the nominal neutrality of the French court and at the same time avail themselves of its covert aid.

The sea fight of John Paul Jones is retold by the aid of some new documents. Franklin's difficulties with Landais, the crazy captain of the "Alliance," who defied the authority of Jones and the minister as well, is rehearsed at perhaps needless length. The Madrid correspondence shows us how Congress tried the patience of its foreign representatives by drawing bills upon them when they had no balance of cash abroad—"drafts on the Bank of Hope," Franklin calls them. Together with the picture presented to us of Franklin attracting to himself the social, the philosophical, and the political world,—“dining abroad six days in the week”—we are enabled to see him dealing with commercial France as well. The authors point out that the influence of the American war on the commerce of that country was such that the feeling for the “insurgents” from motives of profit and loss was an important element in the general disposition of France.

It is probably true that no facts essential to a correct understanding of these and similar topics were not previously in possession of the historian; but, apart from the side light which the new material may cast on other subjects, the very detail thus presented gives a more adequate appreciation of the multiplicity of duties which Franklin, first as the associate of Deane and Lee, and later as sole minister, was forced to perform, and which led him to declare these years the busiest of his busy life. They were filled, as he says, and as this book bears witness, with “the various employments of merchant, banker, judge of admiralty, consul, etc., etc., besides my ministerial func-

tion.” The diplomatic history is interestingly told in chapters treating the enmity between France and England aroused by the previous wars for the colonial supremacy of the world, and explaining how, under the efforts of Beaumarchais, “France drifted from real neutrality to secret and unrecognized alliance,” and how, “from this unrecognized alliance she was pushed into open and undisguised war,” after the defeat of Burgoyne had enabled the efforts of Franklin to bear fruit. On the question whether the French aid furnished to Congress through Beaumarchais was a gift, as Lee held, or whether the government really expected Congress to reimburse this romantic head of the house of “Rodrique Hortalez and Co.” for his supplies, as was the view of Deane, Franklin as late as 1778 was still in the dark.

The chapter dealing with Franklin's first visits to France, in 1767 and 1769, gives an appetizing view of his connection with the sect of “Economists,” led by Dr. Quesnay and the Marquis of Mirabeau, *“Ami des Hommes,”* “whose distinctive principles were based on the theory that the farmer was the only producer in society.” One would like to know more of Franklin's relation with philosophical France. The influence of American ideas upon the French Revolution has never received the treatment to which the importance of the subject entitles it. It is to be hoped that in his next volume Dr. Hale will develop this matter.

For the future discussion of the treaty with England, the way is paved in the present volume by new material illustrating how the correspondence between Franklin and his English friend David Hartley concerning the exchange of prisoners grew into a discussion of the terms of peace that opened the way for the preliminary negotiation. Jay's Madrid correspondence with Franklin presents the dissatisfaction of the former with the condition of affairs at the Spanish court and presages his future policy.

The material presented from other sources than the Stevens collection hardly bears out the promises made in the preface, although the Massachusetts archives afford letters illustrating the feeling on this side of the water, at several important junctures. On the whole one may say of “Franklin in France” that the volume before us furnishes interesting detail to a historical picture already drawn. We find in the book what seems to be a combination of two somewhat opposed efforts, namely, to present a new study of Franklin's French career, calculated to win a popular audience, and at the same time to effect this chiefly by printing letters before unpublished. Although the thread of the story is preserved by interesting introductory comments, adorned, it is

needless to say, by Dr. Hale's graceful style, and frequently of much historical value, the general reader will nevertheless lose very much unless he has at his elbow the edition of Sparks, the *Diplomatic Correspondence*, and similar works containing previously published material with which an acquaintance is taken for granted. For example no reference is made to the letter of Dr. Dubourg to Franklin which led to the sending of Deane and Franklin to Paris and which abounds with information essential to an understanding of the situation which they found on their arrival.

In view of the inherent difficulties of their plan, however, the authors are to be congratulated on the interesting book which they have presented. It is a considerable achievement to have made so entertaining a book, and so valuable a one withal, from material the larger portion of which is devoted to the less picturesque incidents of Franklin's life in France and which from its nature does not abound in Franklin's peculiar bits of moralizing and genial witticisms. Perhaps the best comment on the volume is the fact that the reader will await with impatience the completion of the work.

FRED J. TURNER.

YACHTS AND YACHTING.*

The subject of yachting will always be an attractive one to the American public. Few men have the means and leisure to own and use pleasure boats, but there are multitudes who enjoy seeing them, or indulge in hopeful anticipations of the time when they may become owners. To this growing taste is due the great increase in the literature of this subject in recent years.

The latest contribution to this literature is the re-publication in book form of the series of articles recently published in "Outing," on "Yachts and Yachting," by Captain Roland F. Coffin. This book will prove very acceptable to a large portion of the reading public, as well as to yachtsmen. It presents in a convenient form a condensed history of yachting in America from the earliest days to the present time, and treats all the most interesting episodes of the early period in a style that will enable those not already familiar with them to comprehend most readily their characteristics and significance. Captain Coffin treats his subject in a plain sailorly way, free from technicalities and from tediousness. The style is not elegant, but it is vigorous. The author gives just the information most desired by the general public; and thus the book is

* *YACHTS AND YACHTING.* The History of American Yachting. By Captain R. F. Coffin. With over 110 Illustrations by Fred S. Cozzens and others. New York: Cassell & Co.

the best popular treatise on yachting that has appeared. The history of yachting in America is conveniently divided into six periods, beginning with the origin of the New York Yacht Club, whose early history, says Captain Coffin, has never been written before. Of the first regatta, held at New York, July 16, 1845, he says:

"The regatta was a great event, and was witnessed by thousands of people, all New Yorkers who could get there being on the water. Every craft that could float, from the skiff to the large excursion steamer, was brought into requisition for the spectators. . . . In the early period of American yachting, the regatta days were regarded almost like general holidays by the principal business men."

A very clear account of the contests between the "Maria," "America," and other famous yachts of those early days, is given in this part of the book. In reference to the unwritten history of pleasure sailing, the author says:

"Beside the public races at the regular regattas, and the private contests, there is a history of the sport, which, if the data were obtainable, would be found far more interesting than these, and that is the account of the private cruises and the afternoon sailing; these, after all, constitute the real enjoyment of the sport, to which the public races are merely incidental. It is these that make yachting the very prince of out-of-door sports."

The author has unlimited praise for the sport he advocates; yet his enthusiasm will be shared by many readers who have had glimpses of the possibilities of yachting. He says of it:

"It is free from all the abuses and objections attaching to the turf, and must from the very nature of things always be the sport of gentlemen. In the first place, none but the comparatively wealthy can own and use a vessel kept purely for pleasure sailing; and it is difficult to see how a man can expend his wealth in sport more profitable to himself, his friends, and the community. In the equipment and maintaining of a yacht, all classes of the community receive a share; and the intimates of the owner receive that which is more valuable of all, the health-giving exercise and the fresh sea air which is its accompaniment,—the owner himself getting in these ample return for all his outlay."

Mr. E. S. Jaffray, in the chapter contributed by him to the book, speaks with equal enthusiasm concerning steam yachting, as follows:

"There is no other mode of travelling to compare to it for pleasure and healthfulness. I may here quote the remark of the proprietor of one of the finest of the fleet of steam yachts, when the immense cost of his vessel was alluded to. 'My yacht, it is true, has cost a large sum, but it is worth every dollar of it. It has made a new man of me. Before I built it I was constantly suffering from dyspepsia and other troubles arising from too close attention to business. Now I am a well man.'"

The great ocean yacht races are described in a manner that is more interesting and more easily understood than such accounts usually are. The public attention recently excited by Captain Samuels and the "Dauntless," in the race across the Atlantic, will cause this account of his former exploits in that yacht to be read with renewed interest. The author indulges in a little quiet drollery in his account of the efforts of our Canadian brethren to compete for the famous America cup, with the yacht "Countess," as well as with her equally unfortunate successor in those fruitless efforts. The comparative merits of the deep English cutters and the wide American centre-board vessels are very fairly and intelligently presented. The conclusions concerning them reached by Captain Coffin are worthy of attention, for his experience and good judgment entitle him to be considered a sound authority on this much discussed subject. He says:

"Nothing can be more stupid than the prejudice, born of ignorance, which has been entertained against centre-board vessels. That they are faster than keel-boats, is beyond a question; that they are handier under canvas and better suited to our shallow harbors, cannot be doubted; and as to the question of safety, the percentage of accident in centre-board craft is so small that it need not be taken into account at all. On the other hand, the deep cutters are not a success; the centre-board boats in good breezes having always proved the most speedy. It has also been proved that this style of yacht is less comfortable than the broad centre-board boats, and not suited to the shallow American harbors. They are, however, very handsome craft, and out of the controversy as to cutter and centre-board has come a compromise between the two extremes, of broad and shallow, and deep and narrow, which is superior to either. The centre-board is retained, but with it is a keel through which it plays; the yacht is made narrower and deeper than of old, the lack of stability due to narrowing the model being made up by outside lead ballast."

Several other matters concerning which there is much difference of opinion are also very clearly treated by the writer,—such as the question of the best rig for yachts. He concludes that the schooner rig is so much handier than any other that it is sure to be preferred for a vessel kept solely for pleasure sailing. But he also expresses the belief that, as racing craft, the day of schooners has passed, on both sides of the Atlantic. On the subject of materials, he thinks that iron or mild steel will finally supersede wood as a building material for pleasure yachts.

Besides Mr. Jaffray's chapter on "Steam Yachts," already referred to in this article, the volume contains a chapter on "The Mayflower and Galatea Contest for the American cup," written by C. E. Clay; also one on "British Yachting," by C. J. C. McAlester. These

serve to give completeness to the work, and are so well supported by tabulated facts as to make it very useful as a book of reference. The wood-cuts are numerous, and are chiefly reproductions of outline drawings of the most famous yachts, by Fred S. Cozzens. They are the best that have ever appeared in any popular treatise on this subject; being faultless in the matter of seamanship, and having great artistic merit,—two qualities rarely combined in pictures of vessels. Many of the best of the illustrations are, however, sadly marred by the crowding of irregular patches of printed matter into the sky-space, producing a most incongruous jumble of light sails and heavy text. This is inexcusable in pictures of this character. This unseemly crowding looked badly enough when the chapters composing the book appeared as articles in the limited space of the magazine; but it seems much worse in a volume having such generous proportions as the one under consideration. It is an evidence of the fatal impairment of a nice sense of artistic propriety, caused by the greed for gain in modern magazine publishers, who have in this case deliberately destroyed the breezy atmospheric effect of admirable illustrations, to gain a few squares of text, while they devote page after page of space to absurd advertisements that should never have a place within the covers of a magazine.

HORATIO L. WAIT.

"OLD BULLION."*

The reader of Mr. Roosevelt's biography of Benton will find the author's opinions on men and things outside of his immediate subject, expressed with great freedom and equal positiveness. Thus, of General Lee he says:

"The world has never seen better soldiers than those who followed Lee; and their leader will undoubtedly rank as, without any exception, the very greatest of all the great captains that the English-speaking peoples have brought forth—and this, although the last and chief of his antagonists may himself claim to stand as the full equal of Marlborough and Wellington."

Of General Scott:

"A good general, but otherwise a wholly absurd and flatulent personage."

Of General Taylor:

"He was neither a great statesman nor yet a great commander; but he was an able and gallant soldier, a loyal and upright public servant, and a most kindly, honest, and truthful man."

Of General Jackson:

"A very charming English historian of our day has compared Wellington with Washington; it would have been far juster to have compared him

*THOMAS H. BENTON. By Theodore Roosevelt. (American Statesmen Series.) Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

with Andrew Jackson. Both were men of strong, narrow minds and bitter prejudices, with few statesmanlike qualities, who, for brilliant military services, were raised to the highest civil positions in the gift of the state. . . . As a statesman Wellington may have done less harm than Jackson, for he had less influence; but he has no such great mark to his credit as the old Tennessean's attitude toward the Nullifiers. If Jackson's election is a proof that the majority is not always right, Wellington's elevation may be taken as showing that the minority, or a fraction thereof, is in its turn quite as likely to be wrong."

Jefferson, he terms a "scholarly, timid, and shifty doctrinaire," who is "constitutionally unable to put a proper value on truthfulness;" President Pierce, "a small politician, of low capacity and mean surroundings, proud to act as the servile tool of men worse than himself but also stronger and abler;" Buchanan, a "timid, shifty, and selfish politician, naturally fond of facing both ways;" Silas Wright, "a typical 'dough-face' politician." President Tyler "has been called a mediocre man; but this is unwarranted flattery. He was a politician of monumental littleness." President Monroe "was a courteous, high-bred gentleman, of no especial ability, but well fitted to act as presidential figure-head during the politically quiet years of that era of good feeling which lasted from 1816 till 1824." He says of Webster: "There never was any question of Webster's courage; on the occasions when he changed front he was actuated by self-interest and ambition, not by timidity." Of Clay, that he "entirely lacked Taylor's backbone." Of President Van Buren: "The people at large would never have thought of him for President of their own accord." "If he had always governed his actions by a high moral standard he would probably never have been heard of." Of the President of the United States Bank, Biddle, that he "was a man of some ability, but conceited to the last degree, untruthful, and to a certain extent unscrupulous in the use he made of the political influence of the great moneyed institution over which he presided."

Interspersed with the numerous pictures in this gallery are such observations as these:

"The cause of the Abolitionists has had such a halo shed around it by the after course of events, which they themselves in reality did very little to shape, that it has been usual to speak of them with absurdly exaggerated praise. Their courage, and for the most part their sincerity, cannot be too highly spoken of, but their share in abolishing slavery was far less than has commonly been represented. . . . During all the terrible four years that sad, strong, patient Lincoln worked and suffered for the people, he had to dread the influence of the extreme Abolitionists only less than that of the Copperheads. . . . Wendell Phillips may be taken as a very good type of the whole. His services against slavery prior to the war should always be remembered with gratitude; but after

the war, and until the day of his death, his position on almost every public question was either mischievous or ridiculous, and usually both."

"New York has always had a low political standard, one or the other of its great party and factional organizations, and often both or all of them, being at all times most unlovely bodies of excessively unwholesome moral tone."

"Political economists have pretty generally agreed that protection is vicious in theory and harmful in practice; but if the majority of the people in interest wish it, and it affects only themselves, there is no earthly reason why they should not be allowed to try the experiment to their heart's content. The trouble is it rarely ever affects only themselves."

It will thus be perceived that Mr. Roosevelt holds the pen of a ready writer, and has a mind as definitely made up as to public men and measures during the period under consideration in his sketch, as Lord Randolph Churchill's upon the affairs of Great Britain.

Thomas Hart Benton was born in North Carolina, March 14, 1782. The death of his father, a lawyer in good standing, left him at an early age to the care of his Virginian mother, who lived to see the son, whose character she did much to mould, one of the foremost statesmen of his country. Naturally studious and fond of reading, Mr. Benton was pursuing his college course at the University of North Carolina, when his mother decided to move to the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee, where they owned a large tract of land. There, in attending to his great backwoods farm and in pushing the growth of the settlement, Mr. Benton "readily enough turned into a regular frontiersman of the better and richer sort;" and, says Mr. Roosevelt, though never a vicious and debauched man, he took kindly to the change from the rather austere training of his youth to the savage brawls, the shooting and stabbing affrays, which went to make up the leading features of the social life of the place and epoch, where horse-racing, cock-fighting, gambling, whiskey drinking, and kindred vices flourished in rank luxuriance. Duelling prevailed, and some years later Benton killed his man,—having, as an eye-witness is reported to have said, "looked him to death before he killed him." Such incidents appear to have been so common that Benton's serenity is not shown to have been disturbed by any after reflections upon it. It is related of Jackson that when in his last illness he saw a friend examining a brace of pistols on the mantel-piece, he calmly remarked: "Yes, that's the pistol I killed Dickenson with."

Mr. Benton was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession for some years in Tennessee, serving also as a member of the legislature; and then removed to Missouri, with which State his name is inseparably connected. He was a typical Western man,

though his large information and really extensive learning and accomplishments gave him a certain superiority among those around him; and there is nothing better in this biography than Mr. Roosevelt's description of the men, and Benton's relation to them, "who, under the shadow of world-old forests, and in the sunlight of the great lonely plains, wrought out the destinies of a nation and a continent," thoroughly appreciating as he did, "that he was helping to shape the future of a country whose wonderful development is the most important feature in the history of the nineteenth century; the non-appreciation of which fact is in itself sufficient utterly to disqualify any American statesman from rising to the front rank."

As a writer, Mr. Benton's reputation will rest mainly upon his "Thirty Years' View," and upon his "Abridgment of the Debates of Congress," which he brought down from 1789 to 1850, in sixteen volumes,—an invaluable work, compiled after he had passed the age of seventy-four, and the closing portion dictated in a whisper on his death-bed. As a public man, his fame will be perpetuated by his career in the Senate and House, a career which will impress the reader with deeper admiration the more closely it is examined. Mr. Benton entered the Senate with the State of Missouri, and after thirty years in that body his official life closed with two years in the House, signalized by his vigorous resistance to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, at a time when no "fire-bell in the night" was needed to proclaim the impending conflagration. It was in Benton's time that bills to subsidize steamship lines were first passed, and "that the enlarging and abuse of the pension system began, which in our own day threatens to become a really crying evil," and he opposed both sets of measures. "I am a friend to old soldiers," said he, "but not to old speculators," and he pointed out the tendency of carelessly enacted pension bills not to relieve real sufferers but to work in the interest of speculative outsiders.

Mr. Benton defended the presidential power of veto against the fierce attack of Clay—a power which, as Mr. Roosevelt well says, "is among the best features of our government." He advocated the removal of the Indians, and demonstrated that we had paid to them for land purchases five times as much as we gave for Louisiana and about three times as much as we paid for Louisiana, Florida, and California. In relation to Florida at the close of the Seminole war, he insisted that what was then wanted was the armed cultivator to take possession and keep possession, and he exclaimed: "The heart of the Indian sickens when he hears the crowing of the cock, the barking of the dog, the sound of the axe,

and the crack of the rifle. These are the true evidences of the dominion of the white man; these are the proofs that the owner has come and means to stay, and then the Indians feel it to be time for them to go." He attacked Calhoun's proposition for the distribution of the surplus, and showed "the viciousness of a scheme which would degrade every state government into the position of a mendicant, and would allow money to be collected from the citizens with one hand in order to be given back to them with the other." And he succeeded at this time in defeating Clay's land-money distribution bill, in connection with his opposition to which he urged a plan to apply the surplus to the national defence, in which he declared "the whole Union is equally interested; for the country, in all that concerns its defences, is but a unit, and every section is interested in the defence of every other section, and every individual citizen is interested in the defence of the whole population."

He opposed the "Spoils System," and in his "Thirty Years' View" he writes:

"Certainly no individual has a right to an office; no one has an estate or property in a public employment; but when a mere ministerial worker in a subordinate station has learned its duties by experience and approved his fidelity by his conduct, it is an injury to the public service to exchange him for a novice whose only title to the place may be a political badge or partisan service. It is exchanging experience for inexperience, tried ability for untried, and destroying the incentive to good conduct by destroying its reward. . . . It converts elections into scrambles for office, and degrades the government into an office for rewards and punishments; and divides the people of the Union into two adverse parties, each in its turn, and as it becomes dominant, to strip and proscribe the other."

But Mr. Benton was not likely to commit the error attributed by Mr. Roosevelt to the junior Adams, as going altogether too far in his non-partisanship when it came to appointing cabinet and other high officers,—

"His views on such points being not only fantastic, but absolutely wrong. The colorless character of his administration was largely due to his having, in his anxiety to avoid blind and unreasoning adherence to party, committed the only less serious fault of paying too little heed to party; for a healthy party spirit is pre-requisite to the performance of effective work in American political life."

Mr. Benton opposed the Wilmot Proviso, as well as Calhoun's famous resolutions declaring that Congress had no power to interfere with slavery in the territories. As to slavery, he said:

"The incurability of the evil is the greatest objection to the extension of slavery. If it is wrong for the legislator to inflict an evil which can be cured, how much more to inflict one that is incurable, and against the will of the people who are to endure it forever! I quarrel with no one for

deeming slavery a blessing; I deem it an evil, and would neither adopt it nor impose it on others."

Mr. Benton's objections on principle to a tariff for protection, and to internal improvements not justified under the Constitution; his long and sturdy contest for the disposition of the public lands to actual settlers at a small cost; his securing the enactment of the trading road from Missouri through the Indian country to New Mexico; the triumphant passage of the "expunging" resolutions; his then original suggestion that we should send foreign ministers to China, Japan, and Persia, "and even to the Grand Turk"; his early advocacy of the Pacific Railroad; his conviction that the "still formless and unshaped future" inevitably belonged to this nation, and his demand for continental development; his opposition to the Ashburton treaty as surrendering something that belonged to us; his position as to Oregon, Texas, California; his feeling that all the unoccupied land to the Northwest was by right our heritage, for which he was willing to do battle,—all these are graphically depicted in these pages. Upon the bill for the settlement of Oregon, he said as to England: "I grant that she will take offence, but that is not the question with me. Has she a *right* to take offence? That is my question! And this being decided in the negative, I neither fear nor calculate consequences." Upon the question of the indemnity, he warns France that in the event of a conflict it would have to do with a branch of the same race which "from the days of Agincourt and Crecy, of Blenheim and Ramillies, down to the days of Salamanca and Waterloo, has always known perfectly well how to deal with the impetuous and fiery courage of the French."

And all through his public conduct, like the golden strand of the Queen's Cable, runs the aggressive loyalty which did such service in the contest with the Nullifiers. The following is his own account of what took place in reference to Calhoun's resolutions declaring that the Constitution carried slavery into the territories, *proprio vigore*:

"Mr. Calhoun said he had expected the support of Mr. Benton 'as the representative of a slaveholding State.' Mr. Benton answered that it was impossible that he could have expected such a thing. 'Then,' said Mr. Calhoun, 'I shall know where to find that gentleman.' To which Mr. Benton said: '*I shall be found in the right place,—on the side of my country and the Union.*' This answer, given on that day and on the spot, is one of the incidents of his life which Mr. Benton will wish posterity to remember."

We had, however, involuntarily placed at the head of this article the nick-name, "Old Bullion," because that appellation occurred at once upon the suggestion of Mr. Benton's

name. Though deserving of the remembrance of posterity on other grounds, we think his firmest hold on that remembrance, the "cue" that will instantly recall him, will be found in his steady adherence to hard, *i. e.* honest, money, and the terrific war he waged on its behalf, whether in victory or defeat. He knew well that a metallic currency is of more vital importance to the laboring men and to men of small capital generally than to any of the richer classes. He knew well that a craze for "soft" money works directly in the interest of "the money power," which "its loud-mouthed advocates are ostensibly opposing." He predicted the collapse of 1837, and, referring to the Whig proposition to repeal the specie circular and make the notes of the banks receivable for federal dues, said:

"The present bloat in the paper system cannot continue; violent contraction must follow enormous expansion; a scene of distress and suffering must ensue—to come of itself out of the present state of things, without being stimulated and helped on by our unwise legislation. . . . I am one of those who promised gold, not paper; I did not join in putting down the Bank of the United States to put up a wilderness of local banks. I did not join in putting down the currency of a national bank to put up a national paper currency of a thousand local banks. I did not strike Cæsar to make Anthony master of Rome."

He did not believe in the issue of treasury notes, but unwillingly supported the bill of 1837 for that purpose on account of the necessities of the situation, in view of the fact that the bill authorized their issue in such a form that they could not become currency. They bore interest; were transferable only by indorsement; were payable at a fixed time; were not reissuable, and were to be cancelled when paid. He championed with especial zeal the great financial measures of the Van Buren administration, providing for an independent treasury and for hard money payments; and he "denounced the doctrine that it was the government's duty to interfere in any way in private business; for, as usual in times of general distress, a good many people had a vague idea that in some way the government ought to step in and relieve them from the consequences of their own folly."

The measures which Clay, as leader of the Whigs, brought forward at the first session after Tyler became President included bills to repeal the sub-treasury act, to establish a bank, and to distribute the proceeds of the public land sales, thus indirectly assuming the debts of the States. Benton fought them all, and neither ultimately remained upon the statute books. The distribution act was absolutely indefensible, and was repealed before it had time to take effect. It is singular that Mr. Clay had always been an enthusiastic advocate of such

a measure. The condition of the treasury becoming very bad, treasury notes with the quality of re-issuability were issued and offered to the creditors of the government in the proportion of two-thirds paper and one-third specie. Mr. Benton says that he determined to resist this, and to make a case for the consideration and judgment of Congress and the country, and to rouse the latter to a general resistance. Accordingly he had a check drawn for a few days' compensation as Senator, and placed it in the hands of a messenger for collection, inscribed, "*The hard, or a protest.*" "The hard" was not delivered; the protest followed (costing \$1.75, "paid in the hard"); and Mr. Benton then brought the case before the Senate and the people, in a speech giving a full account of the transaction and resulting in the immediate stopping of the forced tender of paper money.

To no statesman is this country more indebted than to Benton for the maintenance of correct views upon the true function of government in relation to this question of "soft" money, in respect to which Bancroft declares: "No powerful political party ever permanently rested for support on the theory that it is wise and right. No statesman has been thought well of by his kind in a succeeding generation for having been its promotor."

Mr. Benton "was a most loving father," and took the keenest delight in the successes of his son-in-law, Colonel Fremont, and in the assistance rendered him by the courage and judgment of Mrs. Fremont at a trying crisis in her husband's adventurous career. "He was an exceptionally devoted husband." "In public as in private life, he was a man of sensitive purity of character," and his biographer records an instance of the care he took to keep his public acts free from the least suspicion of improper influence. He was counsel when elected to the Senate for a large number of land claimants, who required Congressional action to complete success. He refused to act longer for his clients, or even to designate his successor, so as not only to be quite unbiased in his action as Senator on the subject of the claims, "but not to have, nor to be suspected of having, any personal interest in the fate of any of them."

"He was a faithful friend and a bitter foe; he was vain, proud, utterly fearless, and quite unable to comprehend such emotions as are expressed by the terms despondency and yielding. . . . His abounding vitality and marvellous memory, his indomitable energy and industry, and his tenacious persistency and personal courage, all combined to give him a position and influence such as few American statesmen have ever held. His character grew steadily to the very last; he made better speeches and was better able to face new problems when past three score and ten than in his early youth or middle age. . . . He was sometimes

narrow-minded, and always wilful and passionate; but he was honest and truthful. At all times and in all places he held every good gift he had completely at the service of the American Federal Union."

MELVILLE W. FULLER.

RECENT POETRY.*

Mr. Browning's new volume has been before the public for some little time, and has been received with that semi-humorous sort of comment which largely takes the place of serious criticism of his work. It may be admitted that the perversity which carries him with every new volume deeper and deeper into his peculiar mannerisms affords some justification for this treatment at the hands of the reviewer, but it must not be forgotten that he is a very great poet, one of the greatest of the rich period in which his years have fallen, and those qualities which make him great deserve attention no less than those that make him almost unreadable. The "Parleyings" may be described as interviews reversed. The poet has buttonholed "certain people of importance in their day," and has told them in his peculiar way what he thinks of them and their mundane doings. Their own share in the conversation is reduced to a minimum, being about as great as Mr. Caudle's share in the famous "parleyings" of which he was the subject or the victim. These interviews are, of course, put to use by the poet in the embodiment of his robustly optimistic philosophy. Whatever may be thought of optimism in general, that of Mr. Browning has nothing of the shallowness that characterizes most current expressions of belief in the essential goodness of things. He makes no effort to reason evil out of existence, but boldly acknowledges its presence, and finds for it a beneficent function.

"Type needs antotype:
As night needs day, as shine needs shade, so good
Needs evil; how were pity understood
Unless by pain?"

In this philosophy, all the good of life comes

* PARLEYINGS WITH CERTAIN PEOPLE OF IMPORTANCE IN THEIR DAY, etc. By Robert Browning. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

IN DIVERSE TONES. By Charles G. D. Roberts. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

TEN YEARS OF SONG. By Horatio Nelson Powers. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

THE HEART OF THE WEED. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

MADRIGALS AND CATCHES. By Frank Dempster Sherman. New York: White, Stokes, & Allen.

THE POEMS OF SIR JOHN SUCKLING. Edited by Frederick A. Stokes. New York: White, Stokes, & Allen.

THE POEMS OF MADAME DE LA MOTHE GUYON. Edited by the Rev. A. Saunders Dyer, M.A. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son.

BEDSIDE POETRY. A Parent's Assistant in Moral Discipline. Compiled by Wendell P. Garrison. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

BALLADS OF BOOKS. Chosen by Brander Matthews. New York: George J. Coombes.

through conflict—an easy happiness is no happiness.

"What were life

Did soul stand still therein, forego her strife
Through the ambiguous Present to the goal
Of some all-reconciling Future?"

Nature herself typifies for us these opposing moods of the soul; those alternations of hope and discontent, or rather those mergings of unrest into hopeful content which checker the spiritual life—

"Morn is breaking there—

The granite ridge pricks through the mist, turns gold
As wrong turns right. O laughter's manifold
Of ocean's ripple at dull earth's despair!"

The serenity of soul which can formulate this philosophy of life is as enviable as it is rare. If it is not the deepest view of life, it has at least been held by some of the wisest of men, and a place among these can hardly be denied to Mr. Browning. It is, indeed, his wisdom; his comprehensive grasp both of the scheme of things and the details, and not his power of poetic expression, which is, after all, comparatively moderate, that accounts for the strange hold he has taken upon the best intellect of our age. He is a thinker before being a poet. If expression had kept pace with thought in his work, he would have but few peers among the great singers of the world. As it is, his natural limitations, made more contracted, we cannot but believe, by perversity, have kept his verse far below the level of the high tide of song. An occasional wave, to pursue the metaphor, may lift its crest mountain high, but most are checked in their rise by counter undulations, and cross currents of opposing phase divert their swelling energy into unprofitable ways.

A pleasant surprise comes to us in the shape of a volume by Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts, professor of English literature at King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia. The Canadian poets are practically unknown in this country, with the exception of Fréchette, and we hardly think of him as an American poet, because he writes in the French language. But a poet of the power of Mr. Roberts ought not to remain unfamiliar to anyone who cares for poetry, and we take pleasure in calling attention to the collection which he has entitled "In Divers Tones." That it is a volume of very uneven quality is the first thing to be said. Perhaps the greater number of the pieces which it contains are of the mediocre sort of verse of which far too much has already been written. But there are also many poems of quite surprising beauty, and it is to them that we will chiefly direct our attention. The most prominent characteristic of this verse is found in its harmony and its melody. Mr. Roberts has an ear for the music of poetry which is rare even among poets. Of this, quite a crucial test is afforded by his construction

of hexameters. His volume contains no pieces written in the pure hexameter, but there are three in the elegiac form, and the hexameters which form the alternate verses of these poems, or at least of one of them, "The Pipes of Pan," are as good as any that have ever been made in English. Mr. Roberts has held fast to the important fact that a trochee cannot properly take the place of a spondee in this form of verse, a law which, if apprehended at all by Longfellow, Kingsley, and most others who have attempted to write English hexameters, has been honored far more in the breach than in the observance. Let us take the opening verses of "The Pipes of Pan" as an illustration:

"Ringed with the flocking of hills, within shepherding
watch of Olympus,
Tempe, vale of the gods, lies in green quiet withdrawn.
Tempe, vale of the gods, deep couched amid woodland
and woodland,
Threaded with amber of brooks, mirrored in azure of
pools.
All day drowsed with the sun, charm-drunken with
moonlight at midnight,
Walled from the world forever under a vapor of
dreams,—
Hid by the shadows of dreams, not found by the curious
footstep,
Sacred and secret forever, Tempe, vale of the gods.
How, through the cleft of its bosom, goes sweetly the
water Peneus!
How by Peneus the sword breaks into saffron and blue!
How the long slope-floored beech-glades mount to the
wind-wakened uplands,
Where, through flame-buried ash, troop the hooved Cen-
taurs at morn!"

In the six hexameters which these twelve verses contain, there is not a single substitution of a trochaic two-syllabled word for the spondee required by the verse. We should not know where else in the language to look for six consecutive hexameters as good as these. Such words as "woodland," "slope-floored," and "beech-glades," make as good spondaic feet as any to be found in Greek or Latin; the enormous difficulty of finding enough of such words is what makes the composition of English hexameters practically impossible upon any large scale. On the whole, the finest of the poems before us are those which are suggested by classical subjects, although there is only the barest suggestion of the sort in the one which we like best of all—"The Isles, An Ode." The poems called "Out of Pompeii," "A Ballad of Calypso," and "Off Pelorus," are particularly fine. The latter is the story of Odysseus and the Sirens told in the present tense by one of the companions of the King. These are the closing stanzas of the poem:

"Mark the luring music by his eyes wild yearning,
Eager lips, and mighty straining at the cords!
Well we guess the song, the subtle words and burning,
Sung to him, the subtle king of burning words.
"Much-enduring Wanderer, wondrous-tongued, come
nigher!
Sage of princes, bane of Ilion's lofty walls;
Whatsoe'er in all the populous earth befalls
We will teach thee, to thine uttermost desire."

"So, we rise up twain and make his bonds securer.
Seethes the startled sea now from the surging blade.
Leaps the dark ship forth, as we, with hearts grown
surer,
Eyes averse, and war-worn faces made afraid,
"O'er the waste warm reaches drive our prow, sea-
cleaving,
Past the luring death, into the folding night.
Home shall hold us yet, and cease our wives from
grieving,—
Safe from storm, and toil, and flame, and clanging
fight."

"The Isles—An Ode" is a poem which itself well illustrates the rare mood of which it sings.

"Faithful reports of them have reached me oft!
Many their embassage to mortal court,
By golden pomp, and breathless-heard consort
Of music soft,—
By fragrances accredited, and dreams."

That clearness of spiritual vision which comes with but a few favored hours in a lifetime has, perhaps, never found finer expression than in these lines:—

"One moment throbs the hearing, yearns the sight.
But tho' not far, yet strangely hid—the way,
And our sense slow; nor long for us delay
The guides their flight!
The breath goes by; the word, the light, elude;
And we stay wondering. But there comes an hour
Of fitness perfect and unfettered mood,
When splits her husk the finer sense with power,
And—yon their palm-trees tower!
"Here Homer came, and Milton came, tho' blind.
Omar's deep doubts still found them nigh and nigher,
And learned them fashioned to the heart's desire.
The supreme mind
Of Shakspere took their sovereignty, and smiled.
Those passionate Israelitish lips that poured
The Song of Songs attained them; and the wild
Child-heart of Shelley, here from strife restored,
Remembers not life's sword."

The remainder of Mr. Roberts's volume does not call for special mention. There are a number of patriotic poems, which seem a little perfunctory, with the exception of the one called "Canada." Better than these are the pieces descriptive of Canadian scenes. Their expression is carefully thought out, and their local color is decided. The sonnet on "The Potato Harvest" is a good example of these, and is a fine piece of poetic realism.

No unpractised hand has penned the verses gathered under the title of "Ten Years of Song." Dr. Powers has long held a place in the affections of those to whom the simple poetry of every-day life appeals. The sentiment of the household, the joys of friendship and the pangs of bereavement, the emotions of the religious life, and the rapture of communion with nature, form the themes of his unpretentious but deeply serious song. The simplicity of his verse is deceptive in the respect that it so well conceals the art of its fashioning. Nothing could be at once simpler and more carefully thought out than these stanzas from "Cor Cordium," for example:

"The freshness of the woods is mine.
I lie in baths of mountain air;
The forest's depths of beech and pine
Fold grandly round me everywhere.

"The thrush's song is sweet and low;
A water-spirit stirs the ferns
Down where the silvery trickles flow
O'er emerald brims of sylvan urns.
"On leafy glade and granite walls
The sunshine's misty splendors stream.
Afar a lone dove sorrowing calls
As if the wood moaned in its dream.
"I see where purple lichens glow,
Where mosses drink supreme content,
Where spreads the clematis, like snow,
The curtains of its spotless tent."

In "Concord Bridge" we have a human suggestion linked with the idealized description of such verses as those just given.

"I go where the pines of the lane
Sing low to the beautiful stream,
With an awe like the throbbing of pain,
With a wonder like one in a dream.
The scent of the meadows is sweet,
The landscape in dewy calm lies,
Holy ground is under my feet,
And holy the light to my eyes.
"How still is the bridge in the sun,
With the fairy reflections below;
How softly the cool waters run
Where the beds of the pond-lillies blow:
The splendid white lilies that lie
Subtle-scented in passionless rest
With bosoms of gold to the sky,
Like saints in the peace of the blest."

And then at times the singer rises from his loving contemplation of the incidents of nature and human life to more abstract heights, and his vision comprehends "the scheme of things entire," to him no "sorry" one, broadly considered, for faith in the unseen satisfies the questionings which a limited personal experience puts to the soul.

"We see the edge of things, brief gleams of day,
Twinkles and coruscations in the night;
We hear faint bits of symphonies that play
Far in the awful depths beyond our sight:
And so we doubt, grope, fear, and wonder why
Our little life should just be born to die."

But a larger survey dispels the doubts suggested by the limitations of the individual, and the questioner can still confidently proclaim that

"Through all that is eternal order runs:
No fragment in the scripture of the whole.
Heaven over heaven, star-deeps, and countless suns
Are tuned in concert with the inner soul.
Seen and unseen in one perfection blend,—
Cycle and epicycle without end."

We leave Dr. Powers's volume with the reluctance with which one brings to an end his converse with some large-hearted and sympathetic friend. Sympathetic his verse is above all things else—with every fine human endeavor or aspiration; with every beauty of nature or art.

"To win the secret of the weed's plain heart" is perhaps a task no less difficult than to pluck out the heart of life's mystery in its higher and more significant developments. The anonymous author of "The Heart of the Weed" has touched with rare skill upon some of the lesser emotions of life; or, rather, upon

those less intense phases of emotion which make up so much of our every-day existence.

" While here we sit and watch the after-glow
Of the fair sun scarce sunk behind the hill,
Its twilight loveliness my heart doth thrill."

It is the mild after-glow rather than the fierce noontide of passion that we find in the verses before us. The settled calm that comes when grief is well spent; the willingness to renounce, having found strife too costly; the gentle mood of sympathy and the pathos of past joys remembered fill the quiet pages of a volume whose elusive charm is sure to haunt the reader after he has laid it aside. The poems are mostly sonnets; many of them incidental and personal, and others abstract. We select one which is fairly indicative of the spirit which pervades them all, and which has, besides, a figurative wealth which makes it conspicuous among its fellows.

" Teach me some charm to send joy through thy heart
In a glad tide, and sweep all grief away,
As when the golden, glorious light of day
Rises behind the hills, with beams that dart
Through the pale courts of night, cleaving apart
Cloud shadowy doors, on its triumphant way
Sweeping far o'er the fields, across the bay,
Waking the white-winged ships with sudden start,
And paving for their course a path of gold,
As through the lambent waves they swiftly glide,
Soon lost in gold and crimson, out of sight,
Or, if I may not know the joy untold,
Myself to make thee happy, let me guide
Thee forth to happiness, afar from my love's night."

Of the sonnets upon incidental themes, the best is perhaps that suggested by Millet's "Shepherd Leading his Sheep Home at Twilight." Few of the many sonnets which famous pictures have inspired are as successful as this.

" In beauty fades the softly dying sky,
With quiet sweep of twilight loveliness
The wide and simple landscape seems to bless,
While in the lessening light is heard no sigh
Or sound, save as the sheep go rustling by.
A serried troop, with hanging heads, they pass,
Intent on cropping the short dewy grass,
Heedless of beauties that above them lie.
Naught breaks on the unconscious solitude
Of nature; e'en the shepherd's musing form
Seems but a part of all the beauty there;
With head down-bent, as in the twilight warm,
From conscious thought 'neath nature's spell subdued
He wanders dreaming through the golden air.

It is a little surprising, in view of the simple and unaffected character of the greater number of these poems, that a considerable section of them should be written in the exotic forms of the triolet and the rondel. These forms are handled with no less mastery than the natural forms of sonnet and song, as may be illustrated by one of the four triolets on "Love's Seasons." We take the first of the series, "Spring."

" Through the soft, tender green of Spring,
When birds loud sing old Winter's knell,
Young Love peeps out, a winsome thing,
Through the soft, tender green of Spring;
His pretty looks such joyance bring
That hearts, like birds, with rapture swell,
Through the soft, tender green of Spring,
When birds loud sing old Winter's knell."

The "Madrigal and Catches" of Mr. Frank Dempster Sherman form a volume of singularly delicate lyrical trifles, composed after the fashion set, or rather reset, by Austin Dobson. "A lyric," says the singer,

" A lyric is a tiny bird,—
Gay lover of the garden blooms,—
Whose little heart is ever stirred
By colors and perfumes."

This definition would hardly suit the great-hearted song of Shelley or of Keats, but it fits the verse before us fairly well. Mr. Sherman, too, gives us a few sonnets and verses in French metres, in addition to the simpler stanzic forms of most *vers de société*. Whatever the form he undertakes, his workmanship is very deft. The following piece is fairly representative, and not notably better than many of the others. It is called "A Persian Nocturne."

" O nightingale among the leaves
Who singest to the blushing rose,
Thy liquid, mellow music cleaves
The garden's fragrance where it goes!
Who taught thy feathered slender throat
This strange, delicious, limpid note,
Which soaring skyward through the dark
Is swift, melodious pursuit,
Tempting all the trembling stars to hark,
And all the rustling leaves be mute?
" Teach me thy song, O happy bird,
That, 'neath the window of my love,
My lips may speak some honeyed word
With wings to waft it up above;
And when she comes her starry eyes
Shall shame their rivals in the skies;—
Her cheeks shall mock the rose;—and thou,
Beholding what thou thinkst thine,—
Perched lightly on the lofty bough,—
Shalt leave thy rose, and sing to mine!"

Mr. Frederick A. Stokes has prepared a new edition (the first American one) of the poems of Sir John Suckling. It differs from the edition of the Rev. Alfred Suckling in containing many pieces which that does not include, and from the later edition of 1874 in omitting those pieces which are offensive to modern taste. The editor contributes a biographical preface and numerous notes. The gracefully-written preface sums up the important facts of the poet's life, and treats of his verse with fine critical appreciation. This is the general characterization given by Mr. Stokes: "The path which Suckling's verse takes never scales sublime heights, but runs through fields where music and laughter are heard, where beauty is seen, and where—there are occasionally stormy days. His imagination never awes, nor does his feeling stir us deeply; but his fancy pleases us, his wit and gayety provoke a smile, and his careless ease and grace charm us." The mechanical execution of the volume is exceedingly tasteful. Dimensions, paper, and typography are all attractive. As a frontispiece we have a beautiful etching of the poet's head, after the painting by Vandyke. The editor of the volume being

at the same time its publisher, the wishes of the one have not been, as is so often the case, out of harmony with the ideas of the other, and the result of the rare combination is a singularly charming volume.

A new edition of Cowper's translations from Madame Guyon will be welcome to all lovers of religious poetry. "That great and beautiful soul, the very thought of whom always fills me with reverence," says Schopenhauer, speaking of the saintly author of these fervid hymns, and the sentiment will be echoed by all who have ever come in contact with that steadfast soul whose faith no reverses could shake, and whose love no baser passions could alloy. To the translations of Cowper five others, by an unnamed translator, have been added, and the Rev. A. Saunders Dyer has provided an introduction and a biographical sketch. This editorial matter, being unnecessarily unctuous, as well as written from the narrow Anglican standpoint, is not very valuable, but the verse which it introduces is one of the classics of religious literature and is very acceptable in this new and neat edition.

Mr. Garrison's compilation of "Bedside Poetry" is designed as an aid to parents in the inculcation of moral sentiments in their children. It consists of short pieces, easily intelligible for the most part, and selected as appropriate for "closing the infant day at the bedside with some well-chosen reading, as a prelude to peaceful slumbers." Incidentally, also, they are intended to aid in the development of literary taste in the young. The latter object is to be attained by such a course, we fancy, more easily than the former. Mr. Garrison is evidently of the somewhat disputable opinion that morality is a thing to be largely developed, if not created, by precept. At any rate, the impetus likely to be given to the moral growth of a child by any manner of precept can be much better bestowed in some such way as this than by directly didactic instruction. The selections are provided with what the compiler calls a "key to the moralities" which are "imaged" by them. For example, if a child is to be fortified in the "morality" which Mr. Garrison entitles "Adam a democratic ancestor," the parent will read to it Selection 38, which examination shows to be the familiar stanza about "the gardener Adam and his wife," from "Lady Clara Vere de Vere." If the "morality" called "death the common portion" need to be enforced, Selection 49 may be turned to, and it will be found to consist of the song of the princes in "Cymbeline." Of the selections themselves little need be said. They are good, although they have the appearance of having been chosen in a haphazard sort of way. There are 86 of them altogether, ten being from Emerson, eight from Lowell, and

six each from Clough, Coleridge, and Cowper. It was a good idea to put together on opposite pages the "Not once or twice, in our rough island-story" from Tennyson's "Welling-ton," and the "Life may be given in many ways" from Lowell's "Commemoration Ode."

Mr. Brander Matthews's volume of "Ballads of Books" will be likely to find its way into every library that is worthy of the name, for no true bibliophile can fail to open both his heart and his shelves to this dainty collection of verses in praise of his idols. To avoid any possible misapprehension, the editor says: "As a whole this collection is devoted rather to books than to literature. The poems in the following pages celebrate the bric-a-brac of the one rather than the masterpieces of the other. The stanzas here gathered into one sheaf sing of books as books, of books valuable and valued for their perfection of type and page and printing,—for their beauty and for their rarity,—or for their association with some famous man or woman of the storied past." While this is doubtless true of the majority of the pieces, yet there are some among them which voice the praises of literature itself in no equivocal strain. Miss Cone's "An Invocation in a Library," the Leigh Hunt sonnet, and Lord Lytton's "The Souls of Books" are decidedly pieces of this sort. On the other hand, the strictly bibliophile verse of Dobson, Lang, and Locker, gives to the collection its main character, and many earlier poets, who have penned verses in the same vein, contribute their bits of rhyme to the swelling chorus of the praise of bindings and rare editions and historic copies. Crabbe's "The Library" is added as an appendix, being at once too long and too serious to find a place in the body of the work, and too good to be left out altogether. It should be mentioned that a large number of the pieces have been written expressly for this collection, and appear in it for the first time.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

GOETHE AND CARLYLE.*

The few precious memorials of the friendship between Goethe and Carlyle, which Mr. Norton has, with considerate pains, rescued from oblivion, are a grateful gift to the admirers of these eminent men. Goethe had passed the venerable age of three-score and ten, when Carlyle, youthful and obscure, ventured to address him a note with a copy of his translation of "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship." It was the offering of a reverent student to an august master.

* CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GOETHE AND CARLYLE.
Edited by Charles Eliot Norton. New York: Macmillan & Co.

"Four years ago," he wrote, "when I read your 'Faust' among the mountains of my native Scotland, I could not but fancy I might one day see you, and pour out before you, as before a Father, the woes and wanderings of a heart whose mysteries you seemed so thoroughly to comprehend and could so beautifully represent. The hope of meeting you is still among my dreams. Many saints have been expunged from my literary calendar since I first knew you; but your name still stands there, in characters more bright than ever."

Carlyle had then been poring over German authors for five years, catching his first inspiration for the effort from the perusal of Madame de Staél's "L'Allemagne." He had encountered many obstacles in the pursuit,—German books and teachers at that date being extremely difficult to procure. A schoolfellow had helped him to a knowledge of the language, over which he rapidly obtained a command. His first study was of the works of Schiller, and bore immediate fruit in a life of the author, published in 1823. It was the beginning of that long series of writings by which he quickened the minds of his countrymen to an appreciation of the treasures of German literature hitherto almost unknown to them.

His modest salutation to the great genius of Germany in 1824 met with a gracious response in the form of a letter and a set of Goethe's poems. The favored recipient hastened to lay before Miss Welsh the priceless epistle, which ended with the hearty good wishes and the signature of the poet in his own hand. "Conceive my satisfaction," he writes to her, with boyish enthusiasm; "it was almost like a message from Fairy Land." Then he directs her, with tender care, to cherish the document as the most valuable of her literary relics, a token "of him whom I most venerate and her whom I most love in this strangest of all possible worlds."

Nearly three years elapse, when Carlyle expresses renewed gratitude to the beloved teacher, with the presentation of his "Life of Schiller," his translation of "Wilhelm Meister's Travels," and other studies in German literature. His indebtedness is declared in feeling terms:

"If I have been delivered from darkness into any measure of light, if I know aught of myself and my duties and destination, it is to the study of your writings more than to any other circumstance that I owe this; it is you more than any other man that I should always thank and reverence with the feeling of a disciple to his Master, nay, of a son to his spiritual Father."

In this second communication, Carlyle introduces his young wife, to whom he had been six months married, to the notice of the poet; and she, as her tribute to the revered author, proffers a purse, the work of "dainty fingers and true love," which Goethe is entreated to

accept, "that so something which she had handled, and which had been hers, might be in your hands and be yours." Thenceforth, to the end of their correspondence, Mrs. Carlyle has some personal share in every letter and parcel that passes between the two authors. In acknowledgment of the purse, Goethe sends her a pretty necklace, and to Carlyle "a most dashing pocket-book," with books and sundry other valuable souvenirs. Carlyle writes in due appreciation of these inestimable possessions:

"This little drawing-room may now be said to be full of you. My translations from your works already stood, in fair binding, in the bookcase, and portraits of you lay in portfolios; during our late absence in the country, some good genius, to prepare a happy surprise for us, had hung up, in the best framing and light, a large picture of you, which we understand to be the best resemblance; and now your medals lie on the mantelpiece; your books, in their silk paper covers, have displaced even Tasso's *Gerusalemme*; and from more secret recesses your handwriting can be exhibited to favored friends. It is thus that good men may raise for themselves a little sanctuary in houses and hearts that lie far away. The tolerance, the kindness with which you treat my labors in German literature must not mislead me into vanity, but encourage me to new effort in appropriating what is Beautiful and True, wheresoever and howsoever it is to be found."

Goethe manifested from the first a deep interest in his English correspondent, and besought him for particulars of his past life. Carlyle replied with characteristic fervor:

"How often have I longed to pour out the whole history before you! As it is, your works have been a mirror to me; unasked and unheeded for, your wisdom has counselled me; and so peace and health of soul have visited me from afar. For I was once an unbeliever, not in religion only, but in all the mercy and beauty of which it is the symbol; storm-tossed in my own imagination; a man divided from men; exasperated, wretched, driven almost to despair; so that Faust's mild *curse* seemed the only fit greeting for human life. . . . But now, thank Heaven, all this is altered: without change of external circumstances, solely by the new light which rose upon me, I attained to new thoughts, and a composure which I should once have considered as impossible. And now, under happier omens, though the bodily health which I lost in these struggles has never been and may never be restored to me, I look forward with cheerfulness to a life spent in literature, with such fortune and such strength as may be granted me; hoping little and fearing little from the world; having learned that what I once called happiness is not only not to be attained on earth, but not even to be desired."

In the midst of their correspondence, Carlyle removes to Craigenputtoch, and Goethe is minutely curious as to his friend's new situation and surroundings. He tries to picture to himself the valley of the Frith, with Dumfries on its left bank, according to Carlyle's description. He studies such local maps as can be obtained for precise information, but,

dissatisfied with the results, asks for drawings of Carlyle's house and of views from its windows. These are willingly transmitted, and are ultimately inserted by him in the German translation of Carlyle's "Life of Schiller," which Goethe stamped with his high approval in a preface marked by just and discriminating praise of the book and its author.

Until Goethe's death, in 1832, letters and packets travelled to and fro several times each year between Weimar and the lonely retreat amid the black moors, "two hours' riding" from Dumfries. They were freighted with kindly words and delicate evidences of affection, which strengthened and vivified an earnest and abiding friendship. The secluded home at Craigenputtoch, to which Carlyle had resorted that he "might not have to write for bread, might not be tempted to tell lies for money," was richer than a royal palace, on the arrival of a little fir-box from Germany. No lady in Scotland was so distinguished as she who bent over its daintily-packed contents, and uncovered the bracelet, the brooch, the card bearing poetical messages addressed to her by the great man whom, of all the world, she and her husband held in the highest regard. With a perfect courtesy and tenderness, Carlyle had included her in all his intercourse with Goethe. She was the queen to whom both paid a loyal deference honorable to her and to them. Such rare distinctions were a noble recompense for the sacrifices she voluntarily assumed as the companion of Carlyle.

The letters of Goethe are printed in this volume in the original German and also in an English version. They are infused with a spirit of majestic calm, the utterances of a lofty and catholic nature, accustomed to veneration which is accepted with quiet grace, and looking out upon all mankind with large and humane vision. Goethe's esteem for Carlyle was sincere, and their correspondence was a source of undoubted gratification to him. He was pleased with the homage of the enthusiastic young scholar, and grateful for the powerful aid he gave in promoting a literary interchange between the thoughtful minds of England and Germany. Goethe longed for the era of universal good-will among nations, and to hasten its advent he encouraged every effort which tended to increase their knowledge of each other and consequently their unity of feeling.

To render complete the history of the relations between Goethe and Carlyle, Prof. Norton has enclosed with their correspondence the preface to the German translation of Carlyle's "Life of Schiller," and a number of letters exchanged by Eckermann and Carlyle.

SARA A. HUBBARD.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

MRS. SILSSEE'S "Half Century in Salem" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) gives many interesting glimpses of life in that old town in the early part of the present century, when Salem was the second place of importance in New England. The collection of sketches, therefore, had more than a local interest; for it describes the manners, customs and habits of a peculiar people, and conditions of life which no longer exist. Among the citizens of Salem at that period were many who had acted important parts in the founding of the republic, and were shining lights in the local history of the State. Here lived Timothy Pickering, the soldier and statesman, and Secretary of War during the administration of Washington, Judge Story of the U. S. Supreme Court, Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch the great mathematician, and a race of merchant princes whose commerce covered the ocean and had scarcely any rivals in the ports of New York and Boston. Of all the seaports of the continent, Salem had then the lead in the East Indian, South American, and Pacific Ocean trade. Its wharves were crowded with shipping, its warehouses with foreign merchandise, and its custom-house and streets were busy with commerce. With the wealth which attended this era of prosperity came also opportunities for ease and culture which made Salem one of the social and intellectual centres of the country. The people, therefore, who are described in Mrs. Silsbee's book are many of them noteworthy persons. We are accustomed to think that the political contests of our day are unduly rancorous; but they are nothing compared with the bitterness of partisan strife in the days of our fathers, when Federalists and Democrats would not dance in the same ball-room or recognize each other in the street, and in Salem would not live in the same part of the town. Mrs. Silsbee lets us look into the home life and social amusements of the town, and gives pleasant accounts of its prominent citizens. Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was not born till 1804, came too late upon the scene to be mentioned; and Henry K. Oliver, the popular composer of hymn tunes, is mentioned only as a school-teacher. The shops of Salem were generally kept by women, as their husbands and brothers were at sea or had perished by shipwreck. It has often been mentioned, as a New England custom of that period, to take at dinner pudding before the meats. Mrs. Silsbee says that this was the custom only at a Federal dinner; for the Democrats began with soup and meats and ended with pudding.

MR. E. C. DAWSON's life of James Hannington (Randolph & Co.) has a two-fold value: that derived from the record of a brave Christian spirit, and that pertaining to an account of the efforts of the English Church in the establishment of mission stations in Central Africa. Dr. Hannington was the first bishop appointed to the diocese of East Equatorial Africa. He occupied the office a little more than a year, receiving consecration in June 1884, arriving at Frere Town on the African coast in January 1885, and falling a victim to the treachery of Mwanga, the successor of Mtesa, king of the Masais, in October of the same year. His life was cut short at the close of his thirty-eighth year, but the work crowded into the later portion of it was so noble and useful in its aim and results that his

name secured lasting honor in the places where he moved. He was born to the easy position of a man of fortune, and his tastes were those of a naturalist and a lover of travel and adventure. He was active and high-spirited, and had many social gifts; but at the age of twenty-one the religious tendency of his nature asserted itself, and he resolved to enter the ministry. After his ordination he threw himself ardently into the work he had chosen. When the field for missionary service was opened on the shores of the Victoria Nyanza, he was strongly moved to join the little band of laborers who gave themselves to the cause. In 1882 he left his curate-ship at St. George's Chapel, Hurstpierpoint, where he had ministered faithfully and with signal effect seven years; he parted with his wife and three little ones, and joined the party sent to reinforce the mission at Uganda, prepared for an absence of five years. The hardship and illness from which he suffered incredibly during the inland journey in Africa rendered an immediate return home imperative for the preservation of his life. He reached England a year after his departure; but, recovering his health, determined to renew the undertaking he had reluctantly abandoned. The rest of his story has been briefly outlined. It is told at length by his biographer, and repeats the experience of the heroic men who, animated by the spirit of Living-stone, have borne toil, anguish, and death, in the endeavor to carry civilization to the benighted African.

THERE are some books which have for us precisely the interest of clever conversation, which are written exactly as a man would speak, which give us the impression that we are listening to some one's voice rather than reading from the printed page. A book of this description is before us just now. It is called "A Club of One," and professes to consist of "passages from the note-book of a man who might have been sociable" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). It consists entirely of talk of a familiar kind indulged in by a dyspeptic of culture and refinement. The culture is not very broad but it is genuine as far as it goes, and there can be no question about the refinement. The "man who might have been sociable" is represented as an invalid confined for the most part to his house and his books, with a retentive memory for little things, and an epigrammatic way of expressing himself. Although made unsociable by indigestion and a mild cynicism, he is not without a faculty of shrewd observation, and this he has put to use, as many pages will testify. Here is a characteristic bit: "I hate disputation. My wife—It is not discussion. It is next thing to scolding. Gentlemen ought to be able to talk without disputing; though no gentleman will introduce into conversation a subject upon which gentlemen might differ with feeling. That is the test. A very good man, as the world goes, comes in to sit with me an evening. The politenesses have hardly been exchanged, when he asks my view of something. The view he at once takes to be a deliberate opinion, and fails to combating it, by giving me his opinion of it to the contrary. As if I cared particularly what he thought about it!" We should like to make further extracts from this charming volume. There is a fine descent upon the northeast wind, for example, and a very feeling series of reflections upon amateur musicians which would find responsive echoes in

many hearts. Only we have a sort of suspicion all the time that our invalid is something of a *malade imaginaire*.

CASSELL'S "Complete Pocket Guide to Europe" is the little volume which has heretofore been published with the imprint of J. R. Osgood & Co. It is certainly a "pocket" guide, almost a "vest-pocket" one; its "completeness" admits of some question. It makes a great effort to cover the whole ground, and even includes Russia, the Scandinavian countries, and Spain and Portugal. It allows the reader just four months in which to see all "the most interesting sections of Europe," including the remote countries just mentioned. It undoubtedly contains more information in proportion to its size than any other guide-book published. One caution, however, should have been omitted. The editor says, "It is not wise to restrict one'self in amount of baggage." But if this is true, the first addition a traveller should make to his impediments is a complete outfit of Baedekers and Hares, thus making the "pocket guide-book" quite superfluous. The statements of the book are reasonably accurate and up to date. In a very hasty examination, we have noticed a few errors. The Hotel Splendide at Paris ceased to exist about a year ago; it is still given here. The Goethe collections at Weimar are visible every day of the week but Monday; we are told here that they are only to be seen on Friday. The statement that all steamers now land passengers directly at the Liverpool docks is inaccurate. Some of them still send their passengers by tender to the landing-stages. The page devoted to ocean steam-boat fares is very inaccurate. The highest rates on the North German Lloyd and the French line are given as \$100 and \$110, respectively, whereas they should be \$175 and \$120. No mention is made of the most important of the Allan lines, that from Quebec to Liverpool. We think that even a condensed guide-book might have found room for a line definitely mentioning the carved stalls of Amiens Cathedral, and Rauch's statue of Queen Luise at Charlottenburg. Instances of this sort of omission might be multiplied; we have given enough to show that the present guide has its failings like all others.

THE work of Dr. John Bascom on "Sociology" (Putnam) aims, in the author's words, to cover "a large field suggestively, rather than a narrow field exhaustively." This admission precludes any criticism based upon unsystematic treatment or omission of important subjects, and leaves room only for that which is concerned with matters of detail and with the general tendency of the work. This general treatment of the subject is made all the more necessary by the author's sceptical attitude toward the results claimed by Mr. Spencer and other writers upon sociology. He says: "It is even yet early to speak of sociology. But little progress has been made in the combination of social, civil, economic, religious and ethical terms of growth, into a sociology that shall enable us to understand the orbit of society, and to define, in reference to both the past and the future, the position actually occupied by us in it." While we should dissent from Dr. Bascom's views as to the value of what has already been accomplished in the science, we cheerfully admit that much is being done in an ill-considered way to accomplish a union

between departments of sociological science which it were better to develop separately for some time yet to come. He remarks very justly: "The phases of action embodied in society are so distinct—as, for example, those of Political Economy and of Ethics—as to admit of separate, profitable discussion. Indeed, not till we have considered these separately are we ready for their combination in human intercourse. Each one of these fields admits of distinct principles narrowly applied, and has closer terms of union than the entire field." In the variety of subjects touched upon in this volume, Dr. Bascom gives renewed evidence of a comprehensive and philosophically disposed mind, as well as of powers of keen insight, and direct and incisive expression of thought. The work has not only the suggestiveness which he modestly claims for it, but qualities of a much more substantial character.

"*The Conflict of the East and West in Egypt*" (Putnam) is the title of a valuable monograph of two hundred pages, by John Eliot Bowen, Ph.D. Beginning with the reign of Mehemet Ali, and sketching rapidly the conquests and administrative reforms of this "Peter the Great of Egypt," as he has been called, it brings the history of Egypt, and of England's intervention in the affairs thereof, down to the conclusion of Lord Wolseley's expedition, fruitful only in delays and disasters, for the relief of Gen. Gordon in Khartum. It traces the miseries and crushing financial burdens which Egypt has had to endure, not to England's rapacity, but to the ambitious and wild schemes of Ismail, which are set forth in detail, and which were undertaken in order "to make a civilized country out of uncivilized materials, and to develop trade where natural resources were wanting, let the cost be what it might." Dr. Bowen attaches some blame to greedy European money lenders, but he shows, by the clear proof of facts and figures, that the chief burden of responsibility for Egypt's troubles rests upon Ismail, and he discredits Mr. Seymour Keay's "*Tale of Shame*," though the latter "supports his arguments with many italics, small capitals, and exclamation points." England, reasonably anxious to secure and preserve the shortest route to her possessions in India, and not justly chargeable with blame that she looked after the interests of her subjects who held the bonds of Egypt, did what it was right to do, and what any power would have done in the same circumstances; she intervened, at the Khedive's urgent request, in the affairs of Egypt. All the steps leading to and following this intervention, the story of Arabi's rebellion and of the operations in the Sudan, are graphically described by Dr. Bowen, who, while pointing out the mistakes made by the British Government, says that "never, since his [Gladstone's] accession in 1880, has it been possible or desirable for England to withdraw her influence from Egypt." Dr. Bowen's style is clear and strong, his grouping of facts admirable, his temper thoroughly judicial, and his history of the period covered by his monograph altogether the most intelligent, impartial, complete and satisfactory of any account to be found in the growing literature of this question.

MR. M. M. BALLOU'S volume bearing the title "*Due North*" (Ticknor) is a continuation of his notes of travel around the world, and a complement

to the book upon Cuba entitled "*Due South*." It takes the reader through the northern countries of Europe—Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Russian Poland,—which are not yet so commonly visited and described as to have become hackneyed topics. It touches upon every point which an intelligent and observant tourist, seeking for the largest amount of trustworthy knowledge, would find most significant and impressive. His route ran from Copenhagen to Christiana, Bergen, Lund, and the North Cape; thence across country to Stockholm and Upsala, and so on to St. Petersburg, Moscow, Nijni-Novgorod, and Warsaw. Diversions from this main path were made whenever objects of importance offered sufficient attraction. The most noteworthy observations of Mr. Ballou in Russia and Poland concerned the policy and action of the government. His observations led him to believe that the reports of the hermit-like seclusion of the emperor and his fear of violence from the people are exaggerations; that he is the most liberal-minded of the Romanoffs that have yet sat on the imperial throne; that he has the best good of his subjects at heart, and purposes even to grant them a constitution in due time; and that he has modified the penal system of the country to such an extent that exile to Siberia has become a light punishment compared with captivity in European or American prisons. In studying Polish affairs, Mr. Ballou arrived at conclusions similarly opposed to the popular opinion: viz., that the people are much more prosperous and happy, and all classes in a surer line of progress, than they were before the much-lamented partition, or would be again were the old régime restored.

THE new volume by Dr. Charles C. Abbott, entitled "*Waste-Land Wanderings*" (Harpers), possesses the varied and delightful characteristics which have given his books a favored place among the writings of naturalists. His habitual field of observation is in the environs of Trenton, New Jersey, to which he has devoted his leisure hours during a lifetime. Every spare fragment of the day finds him out-of-doors quietly studying the aspects of earth and sky and the indications of animal life about him. In the woods and fields and on the water he is equally at home, everywhere finding new facts to add to his stock of scientific knowledge. Every species of living creature, wild and domestic, attracts his attention; yet he seems to dwell most upon the birds, perhaps because they are more common than other untamed things, and are more pleasing. The records contained in the present volume have been accumulated while boating on Crosswicks Creek, the uppermost tide-water stream flowing into the Delaware river. They show what a mass of intelligence regarding the ways of nature may be gathered within circumscribed limits, and how much and by what simple means the pursuit of such knowledge may minister to happiness and health.

THE announcement of "*The Story of Ancient Egypt*" by George Rawlinson, in the popular series of "*Stories of the Nations*" (Putnam), prepares the reader for a work of authentic merit, but not wholly for the charm which the book actually possesses. From the opening sentence, "In shape, Egypt is like a lily with a crooked stem," which states a striking fact with simple grace, the narra-

tive exercises a fascinating spell to its termination. It is a boon to have the dry materials of history moulded into a form animated with life and beauty. Mr. Rawlinson has the power to effect this transmutation; and in no book of his has he demonstrated it more clearly. His knowledge of the subjects of ancient history is well known. It enables him to write of them from any point of view with the ease of utter familiarity; but the art of presenting their details in a pictorial light is a gift not to be acquired. It is a native talent, and one of the choicest in the endowment of a historian. The series for which Mr. Rawlinson has prepared the present volume is enriched by the contribution.

An almost ideal holiday is described by Mrs. Anna Bowman Dodd in the book entitled "Cathedral Days" (Roberts Brothers). Six weeks of driving over English roads in a private carriage, of rambling at will through cathedral towns and stopping between-times at home-like English inns, constitute an experience that may be called paradisaian. It was enchanting as Mrs. Dodd describes it, every particular being invested in reality or imagination with the felicity of a dream. The excursion was made by the writer and a single companion—her husband, as she leaves the reader to discover through the thinnest of disguises. Mrs. Dodd is an amiable narrator, her only fault being a little excess in the flow of words, causing an uneasy fear of final inundation. She minglest personal incidents pleasantly with descriptions of scenery, architecture, and all else prominent enough to be worthy of portraiture.

MR. ERASTUS WILSON's "Quiet Observations" (Cassell) have filled an attractive nook in the "Pittsburgh Dispatch" for several years past. They have dealt with the common topics of the hour, in a plain, direct, pungent style, which hits the average apprehension effectively. They exhibit a clever diversity of form as well as subject, some being didactic, others partially epistolary, and others again colloquial, and linked together by the identity of the speakers introduced. A spice of wit, a spice of common-sense, evident honesty of conviction, with veins of narrow reasoning, are blended in them, and constitute a popular compound, amusing and not without profit to the daily newspaper reader.

In the Rev. T. L. Bailey's "Possibilities" (Lothrop) there are some hints regarding methods for making work a pleasure to children, which may repay the practical reader for the perusal of a dull book. The author has not any of the secrets of the skilful novelist, but he has sage ideas about the management of boys and girls in school, so as to waken their minds to the rewards of study, to render them docile and diligent, and especially to develop a love for natural history. Unfortunately, he buries these ideas under such a load of prosy dialogue and prosier theology, that only here and there one will be resolute enough to dig down to them.

MR. JAMES BURNLEY's compilation of facts relating to "The Romance of Invention" (Cassell) is the product of industrious gleaning amid the records of the activity of the imagination bent to practical aims. The author does not evince enthusiasm in his researches, but that plodding spirit

which delves with a utilitarian object. His book brings together a mass of interesting details gathered from myriad sources, and is useful as a manual for reference or as an incentive to a more thorough study of the lives of great inventors and the influence of their achievements on the progress of mankind.

An effort to make a play-spell of the study of chemistry, in order to win children to a love of the science, has been made, and successfully, by Lucy M. Rider, in the juvenile named "Real Fairy Folks" (Lothrop). It is as charming as the brightest of wonder-tales, while it is all the time telling a truthful story of the curious nature and behavior of the atoms, *alias* "Fairy Folks," which compose the elements of the universe. The author has an art of enchaining the attention of young minds while teaching them serious truths, which is quite equal to her knowledge of her subject.

AUGUSTA LARNED'S "Village Photographs" (Holt) are minute and carefully-wrought pictures of the life of a small rustic community which is removed from the bustle and worry and excitement of the great eager world around it. The pictures are drawn with a clever hand which has noted every feature of the quiet scenery and the passive existences that are essential concomitants in a rural town. The descriptive parts are delicately done, and the portraiture are studies from nature.

THE seven stories of "The Children of the Week," which are "truthfully set down by Wm. Theodore Peters, with pictures thereunto by Clinton Peters," are brought out in dainty form by Dodd, Mead & Co. Author and illustrator have worked from a common motive, and the result is a most charming book for little folks.

LITERARY NOTES AND NEWS.

D. LOTHROP CO. will publish shortly "The Russian Novelists," translated from the French of E. M. de Vogüé.

CONNECTICUT is the subject of the latest volume in the series of "American Commonwealths." Prof. Alexander Johnston, of the College of New Jersey, is the writer.

TOM MOORE'S "Epicurean," attention to which has lately been revived by Mr. Haggard's "She," will be immediately issued in Henry Holt & Co.'s "Leisure Hour" and "Leisure Moment" series.

MISS SUSAN FENIMORE COOPER'S "Rural Hours" is published in a tasteful new edition by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Its cover is decorated with a sundial surrounded by the motto "I mark only the bright hours."

MR. BEECHER'S one novel, "Norwood," is just issued in a new and cheaper edition, by Fords, Howard, & Hulbert. This is the story for which Mr. Bonner, of the "Ledger," paid Mr. Beecher \$25,000. It had a large success in that paper, and afterwards in book form.

AMONG the new publications of Thomas Whittaker are "An Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament," by Prof. B. B. Warfield; a Hebrew Grammar, by the Rev. W. H. Lowe; "The

Growth of Church Institutions," by the Rev. Edwin Hatch; and "Sermons for Children," by Dr. Samuel Cox.

THE familiar imprint of White, Stokes, & Allen, New York, is to disappear from the trade. The business of the firm will, however, be continued by Mr. Frederick A. Stokes; while Mr. White and Mr. Allen go again into the publishing business, with the firm name of White & Allen.

LITTLE, BROWN & CO. have just ready: "Through the Fields with Linnaeus," a chapter in Swedish history, by Mrs. Florence Caddy; "Cycling," a new volume in the Badminton Library of Sports and Pastimes; a new edition of Kugler's "Italian Painting;" and "Before Trial," by Richard Harris, barrister-at-law.

A NEW volume by Edmund de Amiciis, "Cuore, an Italian Schoolboy's Journal," is just published by T. Y. Crowell & Co. Also, by the same firm, "Sigrid," an Icelandic love-story, from the Danish of Thoroddson; "The Picture of Paul the Disciple," by the Rev. H. R. Haweis; and a new and revised edition of Cushing's "Initials and Pseudonyms."

A SERIES of small manuals called "Practical Lessons in Nursing" is undertaken by J. B. Lippincott Company. The first volume is on "The Nursing and Care of the Nervous and Insane," by Dr. Charles K. Mills. It will be followed by "Maternity, Infancy, Childhood," by Dr. J. M. Keating; and "Outlines for the Management of Diet," by Dr. E. T. Bruen.

HARPER & BROTHERS have just issued a memoir of Charles Reade, the joint work of the Rev. Compton Reade and Mr. Charles Liston Reade, two near relatives of the novelist. The volume is uniform with Harper's library edition of Charles Reade's novels, and has for frontispiece an engraving of the portrait which was bequeathed to the Messrs. Harper by Mr. Reade.

PROF. F. MAX MULLER'S latest work, "The Science of Thought" will be issued by Charles Scribner's Sons, in two volumes, at an early day. They announce also "Word-Studies in the New Testament," by Dr. N. R. Vincent; "In Ole Virginia," by Thomas Nelson Page; "Around the World on a Bicycle," by Thomas Stevens; "The Essentials of Perspective," by L. W. Miller; etc.

THE success that Messrs. Putnam's Sons have met with in their republication of the works of American statesmen leads them to announce the writings of Washington, in twelve volumes, uniform in style with the works of Franklin and of Hamilton, already issued. In a similar field, the complete works of Abraham Lincoln, in three or four octavo volumes, are announced for publication by the Century Co.

PROF. H. C. ADAMS'S new work, "Public Debts, an Essay in the Science of Finance," is just published by D. Appleton & Co. They issue, also, volumes five and six of Lecky's "History of England in the Eighteenth Century;" "John Sevier, the Commonwealth Builder," by Edmund Kirke; "Roundabout to Moscow, an Epicurean Journey," by John Bell Bouton; and "Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit," a volume of selections from the writings and sayings of Henry Ward Beecher.

THE latest publications of Roberts Brothers include: "Dante, a Sketch of his Life and Works,"

by May Alden Ward; "Dante and his Circle," a collection of lyrics translated in the original metres, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti,—new American edition, revised and re-arranged; the collected works of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, in two volumes, edited by W. M. Rossetti; "Life of Mrs. Siddons, by Nina H. Kennard, in the "Famous Women Series;" "Between Whiles," a collection of stories, by Helen Hunt Jackson; and a new edition for 1887 of Mr. Pascoe's "London of To-Day."

THE large space given by our monthly magazines to topics relating to the labor question show that these topics are paramount at present among serious questions of public interest. Thirty-five or forty years ago, as President F. A. Walker points out in an article on "Socialists" in "The Forum" for May, all the leading economists were declaring that "there was no social question, there could be no social question;" whereas now they "fully admit that there is a social question, of a most vital character." President Walker writes, as usual, with admirable force and clearness. "The Forum," by the way, appears to be striving to occupy the place left vacant in our magazine literature when the "North American Review" renounced its honorable traditions and sank to the level of a sensational monthly newspaper.

THE new edition of Browning, in course of publication by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., fairly realizes the intention of the publishers to produce "a correct, reasonably compact, and legible edition of Browning's remarkable works." It is printed from entirely new plates, and follows the latest London edition, revised and arranged by the author. Vol. I. contains Pauline, Paracelsus, Strafford, Sordello, Pippa Passes, King Victor and King Charles. Vol. II. contains Dramatic Lyrics, The Return of the Druses, A Blot on the 'Scutcheon, Colombe's Birthday, Dramatic Romances, A Soul's Tragedy, and Luria. Volume III. contains The Ring and the Book; Volume IV. Christmas-Eve and Easter Day, with Men and Women, In a Balcony, Dramatis Personae, Balaustion's Adventure, Prince Hohenstiel-Schwangau, and Fifine at the Fair. Two more volumes will complete the series. The fine steel portrait of Browning, in Vol. I., is from a recent and very satisfactory photograph.

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TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.
MAY, 1887.

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 Apaches. Frederick Schwatka. *Century.*
 Baldness, Hats as a Cause of. *Popular Science.*
 Base-ball. New Rules of. Henry Chadwick. *Lippincott.*
 Benton, Thomas H. Melville W. Fuller. *Dial.*
 Birch, Harvey, and Enoch Crosby. *Mag. Am. History.*
 Blanc, Louis. Karl Blind. *Century.*
 Books that Have Helped Me. John Bascom. *Forum.*
 Brown Thrush, A. Olive Thorne Miller. *Atlantic.*
 Canada During the Victorian Era. *Mag. Am. History.*
 Caucasus. Through the. Ralph Meeker. *Harper.*
 Chattanooga, Army of the Cumberland at. *Century.*
 Chattanooga Campaign, The. W. S. Rosecrans. *Century.*
 China and the United States. A. A. Hayes. *Atlantic.*
 Chinese Missions. E. A. Lawrence. *Andover.*
 College Fraternities. A. D. White. *Forum.*
 Color Line in Worship. Pearce Pinch. *Andover.*
 Comets and Meteors. R. A. Proctor. *Popular Science.*
 Corporations. R. T. Ely. *Harper.*
 Creation or Evolution? W. D. Le Sueur. *Popular Science.*
 Dining-room Mendicancy. J. Q. Howard. *Forum.*
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 Executive Responsibility. *Century.*
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 Foods, Chemistry of. W. O. Atwater. *Century.*
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 Mexican Antiquities. R. I. Geare. *Popular Science.*
 Mexican Notes. C. D. Warner. *Harper.*
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 Words and Music. Ario Bates. *Scribner.*
 Yachts and Yachting. H. L. Waite. *Dial.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following List contains all New Books, American and Foreign, received during the month of April by MESSRS. A. C. MCCLURG & CO., Chicago.]

HISTORY—BIOGRAPHY.

Scotland. As It Was and as It Is. By the Duke of Argyll. 2 vols., svo. Gilt tops. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$8.00.
The Camp-Fires of General Lee. From the Peninsula to Appomattox Court-House. With Reminiscences of the March, the Camp, the Bivouac and of Personal Adventure. By E. S. Ellis. 12mo, pp. 414. H. Garrison & Co. \$1.00.

The Story of Ancient Egypt. By George Rawlinson, M.A. With the collaboration of A. Gilman, M.A. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 408. "Story of the Nations." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

Baltimore and the 19th of April, 1861. A Study of the War. By G. W. Brown. 8vo, pp. 176. Johns Hopkins University Studies. \$1.00.

Ancient Legends. Mystic Charms, and Superstitions of Ireland. By Lady Wilde ("Speranza"). To which is appended a chapter on "The Ancient Races of Ireland." By the late Sir William Wilde. 2 vols., 16mo. Gilt tops. Ticknor & Co. \$5.00.

Anne Gilchrist. Her Life and Writings. Edited by H. H. Gilchrist. With a Prefatory Notice by W. M. Rossetti. 8vo, pp. 388. Scribner & Welford. \$6.00.

Memoir of Charles Reade. By C. L. Reade and the Rev. Compton Reade. 12mo. Portrait. Harper & Bros. \$1.25.

Memories of the Men Who Saved the Union. By Donn Piatt. 12mo, pp. 302. Gilt top. Portraits. Belford, Clarke & Co. \$1.50.

James Fraser, Second Bishop of Manchester. A Memoir, 1818-1885. By Thomas Hughes, Q.C. 8vo, pp. 388. Portrait. Macmillan & Co. \$4.50.

Two Royal Lives. Gleanings at Berlin and from the Lives of their Imperial Highnesses, the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany. By Dorothea Roberts. With Portraits and Illustrations. 16mo, pp. 288. Gilt top. Scribner & Welford. \$2.25.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. By W. O. Stoddard. 12mo, pp. 358. Portraits. "Lives of the Presidents." White, Stokes, & Allen. \$1.25.

TRAVEL—SPORTING.

The Balkan Peninsula. By Emile De Laveleye. Translated by Mrs Thorpe. Edited and revised for the English public by the author. With an Introductory Chapter upon the most Recent Events, and a letter from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. With a map. 8vo, pp. 384. Gilt top. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$4.50.

The Index Guide. To Travel and Art-Study in Europe: A Compendium of Geographical, Historical, and Artistic Information for the Use of Americans. By L. C. Loomis, A.M., M.D. Edition for 1887. 16mo, pp. 638. Leather. C. Scribner's Sons. \$3.50.

Cassell's Complete Pocket-Guide to Europe. Revised and Enlarged. Pp. 477. Morocco. Flex. Cassell & Co. \$1.50.

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Cycling. By Viscount Bury, K.C.M.G., and G. L. Hillier. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 450. "The Badminton Library of Sports and Pastimes." Edited by the Duke of Beaufort, K.G. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.50.

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Elements of Physiological Psychology. A Treatise on the Activities and Nature of the Mind. From the Physical and Experimental Point of View. By G. T. Ladd. 8vo, pp. 696. C. Scribner's Sons. \$4.50.

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